

Spotlighting Chemical Exposures Faced by Working Women in California

Nearly 8 million women are part of California's workforce. These women are mostly in lower-paying jobs, with approximately 60% having incomes below the statewide median.

Much is unknown about how women's jobs may impact their health, specifically when it comes to putting them at risk for breast cancer.



The California Department of Public Health and the Cancer Prevention Institute of California, with support from the California Breast Cancer Research Program, are researching chemical exposures faced by the Golden State's working women to better understand hazards they face and ways to protect them.

Identifying Gaps in Knowledge

Women – particularly women of color – have been vastly underrepresented in research into the risks of cancer for working people. The research hopes to spotlight occupations and industries with large numbers of working women, and to identify those that are most likely to pose exposures to chemicals that may cause breast cancer.

The research aims to identify:

- The jobs women hold in California.
- Substantial chemical exposures affecting large numbers of women in the workplace.
- The overlap between women's jobs and exposures to chemicals linked to increased risk for breast cancer.
- Additional data to provide clarity on how chemical exposures impact breast cancer risk.

Providing Critical Information to Working Women

The project also aims to provide California's working women with access to information about breast cancer risks they may face from chemicals in the workplace. At the conclusion of the study, the public will be able to use a web-based tool to see and explore the data.

For more information about the project, please [contact Dr. Robert Harrison](mailto:Robert.Harrison@cdph.ca.gov) via email (Robert.Harrison@cdph.ca.gov) or phone at (510) 620-5769.